

I should add that all this took place between the hours of 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. in bright sunshine.

CLOUDLAND ESTATE,  
CUMBUM P.O.,  
MADURA.

A. F. HUTTON

7th August 1947.

[To my note on the Nilgiri Tahr (above), I would like to add, that I visited Metlamallai again on the 14th instant, and the Saddleback and doe and young one were still in each other's company in the same locality, so it looks as if the doe is accompanied by the buck for some time at least, after mating.—A.F.H.]

### 9.—THE 'WATCHING' ATTITUDE OF THE CHEETAL OR SPOTTED DEER (*AXIS AXIS ERXL*).

(*With a plate*)

The following observations were made while out on a shoot in the Motichur Forest, about 8 miles north of Hardwar in the Dehra Dun Division of the United Provinces, in the second fortnight of May 1947.

Beyond a rivulet in the forest was a large, half-open grassy space, covered here and there with tall sal and simal trees. It was the feeding ground of game. In this area we saw one morning a herd of about seven hind of chital, coming out cautiously to drink. Behind them, walking slowly, there soon appeared a magnificent stag which kept close to the herd. A hind which lagged behind the rest was promptly spurred forward by the stag by means of savage digs of his antlers in her flanks. The stag then threw his head backward and gave forth a loud, challenging bellow. The hind at this time appeared to be considerably excited and soon another stag, smaller than the first and with short antlers, appeared. The latter at once ran towards the new comer and, with lowered head, charged him, so that he ran away. The hind seemed to watch this performance with some alarm and gave forth shrill calls.

By this time we had crossed the rivulet and the smaller stag again came into view not very far off, but he had suspected our presence and was moving cautiously. At this moment, when he was behind a high bush, he suddenly stood up on his hind legs, like a performing bear, and scanned the horizon (sketch). He remained in that position for a few moments, trying to locate the danger and ran away when we fired at the other stag. As this 'watching' or standing attitude has not been commonly observed, I think that it is worth recording.

It may be added that the 'standing' attitude is occasionally found in other mammals and even in some insects, and serves a variety of purposes. The rearing up of the bear and the horse are familiar examples and are probably a preliminary to attack. Less familiar examples come of insects where mantids occasionally adopt this attitude to frighten away the chasing enemy (vide Roonwal, *Proc. R.*



HITSHI, H. L.—The watching attitude of the Cheetal or Spotted Deer  
(*Axis axis* Erxl.)